

janjaweed rapists but also among refugees in camps in neighboring Chad. It is equally reasonable to posit that some other previously obscure sexually transmitted disease could be amplified to epidemic proportions via the bodies of the women of Darfur.

And there is yet another chapter in the region's disease history that has a bearing on what's happening in Darfur. Ten years ago, the world stood by as hundreds of thousands were murdered in Rwanda and thousands more died in the refugee camps. Initially, overwhelmed local medical workers believed that the disease causing many of the deaths was cholera. But it wasn't chiefly cholera that ravaged the refugee camps; it was shigella, bacteria that cause dysentery. Amid the ongoing violence and the chaos of the camps, black market antibiotics were taken indiscriminately. Instead of curing the bacteria, the uncontrolled use of antibiotics created a brand new fully drug-resistant strain that still plagues Africa.

Surely it is in our collective interest, in light of this sorry history, to pay heed to those who implore us to save Darfur, to stop the rape, to resettle the refugees, to end the chaos that breeds disease. Even if we cannot find Sudan on a map or have no room left in our hearts to bear witness to another war, we surely understand that deadly microbes are our problem, as well as theirs.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 2420

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters in relation to the May 13, 2004 introduction of the SCHIP Expansion Act, S. 2420, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2004.

The Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
Senate Hart Office Building 524, Washington,
DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAHAM: The Children's Defense Fund shares your goal of strengthening the State Children's Health Insurance program (SCHIP). The SCHIP program provided coverage to 5.8 million children in 2003, but the latest data indicate that there are still approximately 8-9 million uninsured children, the majority of whom are currently eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP.

To cover these eligible, uninsured children states will need to further simplify their Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment and especially retention processes. They will also need additional federal resources. The SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 would provide \$18 billion in additional federal SCHIP funds and would also encourage states to adopt important Medicaid and SCHIP improvements such as continuous eligibility and passive renewal. In addition, your bill would, appropriately, prevent states with unspent federal SCHIP funds from capping or freezing program enrollment.

We look forward to working with you to enact legislation that will provide strong incentives for states to elect currently available options to streamline Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment and retention, and will discourage states from restricting enrollment in the SCHIP program.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

EMIL PARKER,
Director of Health, Children's Defense Fund.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA,
Alexandria, VA, May 13, 2004.

DEAR SENATOR GRAHAM: As a strong supporter of Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Catholic Charities USA would like to express our support for the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004. We thank you for sponsoring this vital piece of legislation that we believe represents a critical step in providing coverage to all uninsured children.

We are especially pleased that the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 directly addresses the problem of health care access that millions of uninsured children face by providing new state options to expand SCHIP to all uninsured children regardless of income. This legislation will help ensure children's access to primary and preventive health care, enabling them to grow up healthy and participate in their communities.

We also support the provisions in the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 that would provide a higher federal SCHIP match to those states who streamline the enrollment process by implementing presumptive eligibility, twelve-month continuous enrollment, elimination of the asset test, and passive renewal. These simplification measures will allow families to gain quicker access to the health care they need.

In addition, we are pleased that this legislation restores federal funding allotments to pre-2002 SCHIP funding levels, which will enable states to continue to enroll and cover even more uninsured children.

Catholic Charities agencies work nationally and at the state level to ensure as many eligible children as possible are enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP. We believe that it is critically important to ensure that poor and low-income children and families have access to the health care they so vitally need.

We thank you for introducing this legislation as we believe it represents an important step towards reducing the number of uninsured children in country and reducing the barriers to health care that many families face.

Sincerely,

SHARON DALY,
Vice President, Social Policy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COASTAL WETLANDS EROSION IN LOUISIANA

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank the children of the Terrebonne Parish School System in Houma, LA, for writing to me about the dire effects of coastal erosion on their State. As part of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce's Save Our Soil Campaign, students from the Terrebonne Parish are writing letters to important State and Federal officials regarding the coastal land loss crisis in Louisiana. I truly appreciate their efforts and will do my part to support restoration in all of our Nation's coastal States.

Coastal erosion is an urgent problem in the United States, costing hundreds of millions of dollars a year, including damage caused by storms and flooding, costs of erosion prevention, and expenses to dredge channels and harbors. In Louisiana alone, wetland loss could cost the Nation \$36.6 billion. The Atlantic and Gulf coasts account for 45 percent of the U.S. coastline and they

are home to 63 percent of the structures within 500 feet of the shoreline. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the Nation's highest average erosion rates—up to 6 feet or more per year—occur along the Gulf of Mexico coastline, while the average erosion rate on the Atlantic coast is about 2 to 3 feet per year. A hurricane or other major storm can cause the coast to erode 100 feet or more in a single day.

This rate of erosion is unacceptable. As the Terrebonne students know, wetlands and barrier islands provide natural protection from strong winds and hurricanes. Coastal zones are ecologically significant, providing safe and healthy habitat for an abundance of migratory birds and other wildlife. Our Nation's commercial and recreational fisheries are dependent on the many species of fish and other aquatic organisms that spawn and nest in this delicate web of marshes, wetlands, and estuaries.

It is my sincere hope that through the Water Resources Development Act we will be able to conserve our remaining wetlands and restore many acres of precious coastline in Louisiana. I am grateful to the citizens of Terrebonne Parish for educating their children and fighting for the coastal restoration of Louisiana. We cannot stand to lose more of this previous natural resource.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 77

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a